

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday 20 September 1978

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, 20 September 1978

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ARAB STATES: Reservations

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[] Both Saudi Arabia and Jordan have expressed reservations about the outcome of the Camp David talks, while official Syrian reaction continues to be cautious. Reactions from Egypt are generally positive. The Palestinians are sharply attacking the accords. A summit of Arab hardliners is convening in Damascus today to discuss the situation.

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[] The Saudis, following a cabinet meeting, described the Camp David framework for a Middle Eastern settlement as an "unacceptable formula for a definitive peace." The Saudi statement noted that the accord failed to provide for Palestinian self-determination and that it ignored the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Saudis also stressed their particular interest in Israeli withdrawal from Jerusalem and the need for new efforts toward Arab unity.

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[] The Saudi communique's treatment of President Sadat's efforts to regain the Sinai was less clear cut. Riyadh said that as long as Arab higher interests were not "contradicted," Saudi Arabia did not believe it had the right to interfere with an Arab country's efforts to regain its lost territory through military or peaceful means.

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[] King Hussein announced that Jordan would not be bound by the agreements worked out at Camp David but did not flatly rule out a Jordanian role in a West Bank - Gaza arrangement. In a statement issued following an emergency cabinet meeting, Hussein called for a comprehensive settlement involving total Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem and recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to "determine their own destiny." He warned that a separate Egyptian-Israeli deal would seriously weaken the Arab cause.

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[] Hussein spoke by phone with Syrian President Assad and Saudi Crown Prince Fahd prior to the cabinet meeting, according to Amman radio.

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[REDACTED] A statement issued by the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee yesterday termed the Camp David agreements a "complete capitulation" by Sadat. It called upon Palestinians everywhere to strike and demonstrate "against the conspiracy," and urged Egyptians to "rise in defense of their national dignity."

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[REDACTED] The Committee statement coupled its criticism with a warning of "fair punishment" to those who declare their support for the Camp David accords.

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[REDACTED] In a speech to Palestinian military graduates yesterday, PLO chief Yasir Arafat threatened that US interests in the Middle East will suffer because of the Camp David agreements.// [REDACTED]

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SOUTH KOREA: Election Tensions

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[REDACTED] //South Korea's National Assembly, which opens today, will provide a forum for the opposition to attack the government in the campaign for the legislative election this December. University students are also determined to amplify their criticism of national policies in the next few months--a development that will test the government's liberalized approach to domestic dissidence.//

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[REDACTED] //The opposition New Democratic Party views the autumn assembly session as a critical prelude for the coming election. Since 1972, when President Pak introduced a more authoritarian style of rule, a plenary legislative session

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has been the one arena in which critical views--except those aimed directly at Pak--can be expressed with relative freedom. Over the past year, moreover, the government has allowed full press coverage of these sessions.//

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[REDACTED] //The opposition is certain to try to arrange a legislative schedule that allows as much time as possible for questioning the government. It plans to focus on several recent scandals that have embarrassed the government and may call for the release of additional political prisoners.//

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[REDACTED] //Dissidents outside the assembly view the pre-election period as their last chance to push for fundamental change in government. They fear that a strong ruling party victory in the election, combined with Pak's inauguration for another six-year term on 27 December, will be read as final public approval of the political changes the President introduced in 1972. They hope to heighten political tensions with stepped-up demonstrations by university students.//

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[REDACTED] //Essentially, the dissidents want to force the government to choose between the public embarrassment of street protests or the reimposition of strict controls on political activism. If Pak clamps down on dissent, it would mark the end of the more relaxed attitude the government has adopted in dealing with protesters and a reversal of some of the recent progress made on the South Korean human rights front. [REDACTED]

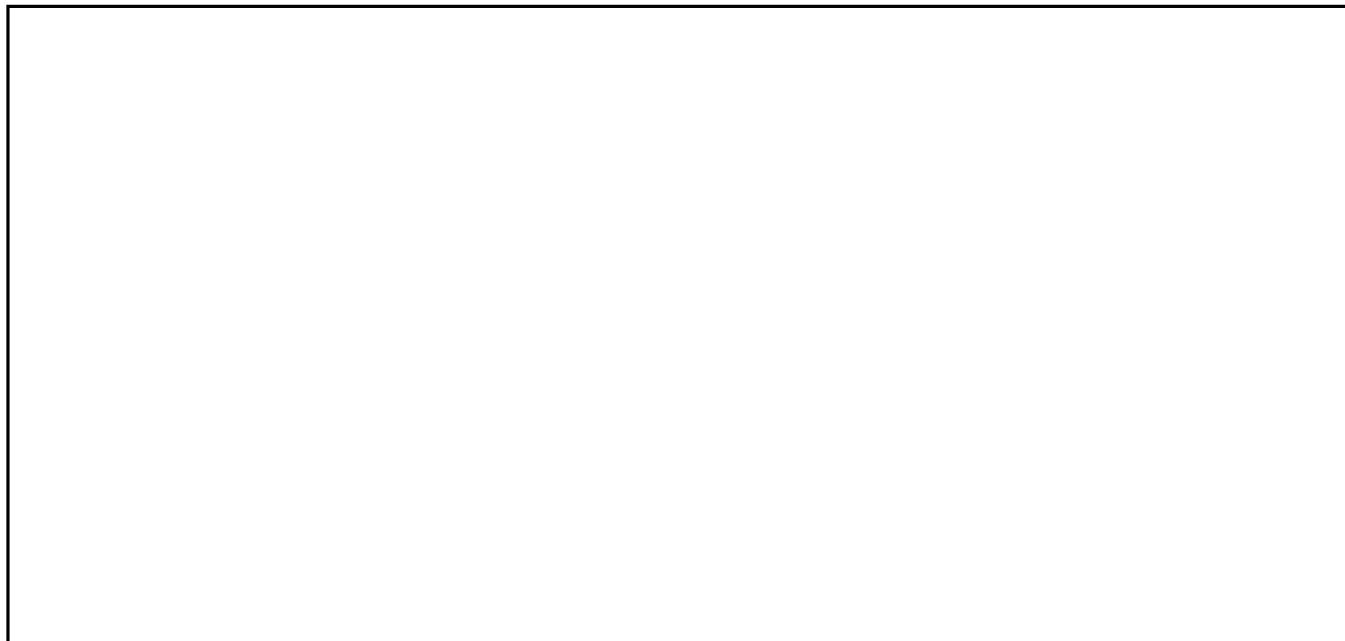
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BRIEF

Sweden .

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[redacted] Rumors are circulating in Sweden that the three-party coalition is about to collapse over the decision due tomorrow on the start-up of two nuclear power reactors. The decision was postponed earlier this year to allow time for the government to study a special commission report on waste disposal safety.

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[redacted] The real issue, which has threatened the coalition since its formation in 1976, is not technology but differences among the coalition partners on the safety of and need for nuclear energy. The opposition Social Democrats, who launched the extensive nuclear energy program while they were in power in 1975, have not been effective in their criticism of the present government on the nuclear energy issue.

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[redacted] Most observers in Stockholm discount the possibility of an early election and agree that if the government folds, a minority government headed by Liberal Party leader Ullsten would be permitted to fill the gap until the regularly scheduled election next fall. [redacted]

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